

## COMPLETION REPORT

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### **Situating the Philippine Studies Academic Programs in Japanese Universities: Traditions, Trends and Prospective**

Japanese studies in the Philippines started as early as 1920 (Gonzales 1996). Currently, courses related to Japanese language, culture and society are offered to over twenty academic institutions in the Philippines. From this data, it could be inferred that Japanese studies in the country is popular and well researched. However, there is a gap in research about Philippine studies in Japan. This study consolidated and analyzed all the Philippine Studies academic programs at the university level, specifically in the seven universities. Among these universities, Osaka University (OU) was the very first to offer Philippine studies course in 1984, followed by University of Shizuoka (UoS) (1987), Sophia University (SU) (1980s), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) (1992), Takushoku University (TU) (2004), Kagoshima University (KU) (2011), and Nagoya Gakuin University (NGU) (2018). OU and TUFS have a full-program on Philippine Studies where they offer subjects related to Philippines from first to fourth year while the others have only elective classes related to the Philippines. On the macro-level, the establishment of the Philippine Studies program and elective classes is related to Kokusaika or Internationalization in Japan in the 1960s. According to Zafra (2012), in the 80s, the Philippines has become important to Japan in terms of economic aspect.

On the micro-level, the researcher has identified the common trends in seven Japanese universities in terms of: curriculum (subjects), learning materials, students' motivation, professors' background, impact to students' life and career and the effect of pandemic in the programs. Universities (OU and TUFS) which have full-program on Philippine studies, it was observed that in terms of curriculum they offer Filipino language for the first two years and for the rest of the program, they let students study classes with interdisciplinary approach like linguistics, literature, politics and culture. They also offer graduate classes. On the other hand, the other universities (UoS, SU, TU, KU, NGU) with elective classes related to the Philippines offer classes on Filipino language and culture with basic, intermediate and advanced level. They also focus on grammar, reading, writing, speaking and listening. TUFS and OU published textbooks about Filipino language which are also used by the other universities. There are Filipino and Japanese professors who are teaching the classes related to the Philippines and they graduated with masters to doctorate in various fields. Based on the survey conducted to 146 students from seven universities, their main motivation of studying Philippine-related classes is their interest in studying about Asian languages and culture and interaction with Filipinos in Japan and abroad. Before taking the said classes, only 56% of them have positive perception about the Philippines but after taking the classes, their number has increased to 88%. Based on the majority of the students, these Philippine-related classes are significant to them because they can use them in interacting with Filipinos in the Philippines or abroad when they work in Japan or in the Philippines and it is needed to accept diversity of culture and multiculturalism in Japan. Some of the effects of the pandemic in these classes are: shifted to online classes, decreased in number of students, cancellation of exchange student program or short-term program and low student motivation. In post-pandemic Japan, it is expected that in TUFS, Philippine Studies program will be accessible even to non-major students to increase

interest and enrollees while OU hope to accept Filipino students who graduated in high school. For private universities, when the professors who teach Philippine-related classes retire, the classes might also be stopped.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

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